

# A Look at Ten Years of Change In Catholic Schools in Our Diocese

By **SISTER M. JAMES LYNCH**  
Coordinator of Educational Services

The percentage of change over the last ten years in the Diocese of Rochester is statistically significant. There is no one simple reason for the change in any specific category, but rather a variety of factors and events have helped shape these numbers. It is best to approach them with a questioning spirit and an open mind regarding approaches to the future.

Pupil Enrollment: Elementary Schools		
Diocese of Rochester		
1965-66		1974-75
45,535		24,662
New York State		
1965-66		1974-75
625,549		387,344

Teachers (full-time): Elementary Schools			
	Religious	Lay	Total
1965:	736	545	1,281
1970:	521	706	1,227
1975:	227	713	940

Consolidations	
1970: Rochester:	Our Lady of Lourdes Queen of Peace
1971: Elmira:	Our Lady of Lourdes St. Anthony St. Casimir St. Cecilia St. Mary Ss. Peter and Paul
1971: Corning:	St. Mary St. Patrick St. Vincent
1973: Auburn:	St. Alphonsus Sacred Heart Holy Family
1973: Rochester:	St. John Blessed Sacrament
1974: Rochester:	Holy Apostles Holy Family

Closings	
1969:	St. Rose, Lima
1970:	St. Aloysius, Auburn St. John, Clyde
1972:	Ss. Peter and Paul, Rochester St. Anne, Palmyra
1973:	St. Francis Xavier, Rochester St. Lucy, Rochester
1974:	St. Patrick, Mt. Morris St. Bridget, Rochester
1975:	C.I.C.P. Schools: Rochester  St. Michael Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Immaculate Conception Holy Redeemer  Holy Angels

Total Diocesan Enrollment by Counties 1974-75	
Cayuga	1,293
Chemung	1,395
Livingston	392
Ontario	1,082
Seneca	527
Steuben	981
Tompkins	272
Tioga	240
Wayne	419
Yates	125
Monroe	18,079

Number of Elementary Schools			
	1965-66		1975-76
Parochial	97	63	Parochial
Private	5	14	Inter-parochial
		3	Private
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

## Factors Contributing to School Closing Decisions

1. Increasing costs of education.
2. Decreasing population.
3. Declining parish collections.
4. Decreasing number of teaching sisters.
5. Changing attitudes of parents toward the value of Catholic schools and the choices of religious education.
6. Lack of willingness to consider the possibility of consolidation.
7. Attractive choices in regard to quality public education.
8. Changing housing and neighborhood patterns.
9. Disenchantment with Catholic doctrines or leadership.
10. Negative court decisions in regard to aide to parochial schools.

from Sister M. James Lynch, diocesan coordinator of Educational Services.

## The Man behind SPAP . . . Dr. O'Hare

The primary author of the School Planning Assistance Program is a transplanted Brooklynite, who delights in the natural beauty, friends and job satisfaction he has found in Western New York, but admits he will always be a Brooklynite.

A theologian and religious educator, with 13 years experience in religious and general educational teaching and administration, Dr. Padraic (pronounced POD-RIK) O'Hare has served the Church of Rochester as consultant for educational planning since September of last year. A graduate of St. Francis College in Brooklyn, with a degree in History, Dr. O'Hare received graduate degrees in Political Science from Fordham

University, Religious Studies from Manhattan College and received his doctorate in Religion and Education from Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University in New York City.

Dr. O'Hare has taught religion from the elementary through the college levels, has consulted and taught in parish childhood, youth and adult religious education programs in numerous parishes down state, and has held administrative positions including President of the High School Religion Teachers Council and Director of Religious Activities at St. Anthony's High School, both in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Dr. O'Hare also has taught in the Education department of Kingsboro Community

College of the City University in New York City.

His commitment to the Catholic school educational ministry is complete. He says: "The essence of my commitment to and feeling for this ministry is theological, as distinguished, for example, from pragmatic."

He is married to Margaret Ciski O'Hare, a Western New Yorker and physical therapist at the Monroe Developmental Center. The O'Hares live in Mumford.

In addition to the administration of the School Planning Assistance Program, Dr. O'Hare's responsibilities include diocesan liaison to Catholic secondary schools and a variety of consultation services for the Religious Education Department.



Dr. O'Hare and Father Daniel Brent discuss plans.

Photo by Bruce Genut